

C1 which makes the bacterium harboring the protein L-threonine-resistant, and wherein the protein comprises the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 4.

12. (New) The bacterium according to claim 11, wherein L-homoserine resistance of said bacterium is further increased by increasing an activity of a protein which makes the bacterium harboring the protein L-threonine-resistant, and wherein the protein comprises the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 2.

13. (New) The bacterium according to claim 11, wherein said activity of the protein which makes the bacterium harboring the protein L-threonine-resistant is increased by transformation of said bacterium with DNA coding for the protein.

14. (New) The bacterium according to claim 12, wherein said activity of the protein which makes the bacterium harboring the protein L-threonine-resistant is increased by transformation of said bacterium with DNA coding for the protein.

15. (New) The bacterium according to claim 12, wherein said activity of the protein which makes the bacterium harboring the protein L-homoserine-resistant is increased by transformation of said bacterium with DNA coding for the protein.

16. (New) An isolated DNA which encodes a protein which has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4.

17. (New) The DNA of claim 16, which is a DNA defined in the following (a) or (b):

(a) a DNA which comprises the nucleotide sequence of nucleotide numbers 187 to 804 in SEQ ID NO: 3;

(b) a DNA which is hybridizable with a nucleotide sequence of nucleotide numbers 187 to 804 in SEQ ID NO: 3 under a stringent condition, and encodes a protein having an activity of making a bacterium having the protein L-threonine-resistant, wherein the stringent

C1 condition is a condition in which washing is performed at 60°C, and at a salt concentration corresponding to 1 x SSC and 0.1% SDS.

18. (New) A method of producing an amino acid, comprising:
cultivating the bacterium as defined in claim 11, which has an ability to produce the amino acid, in a culture medium, to produce and accumulate the amino acid in the medium, and
recovering the amino acid from the medium.

19. (New) The method according to claim 18, wherein said amino acid is selected from the group consisting of L-homoserine, L-threonine, and branched chain amino acids.

20. (New) The method according to claim 18, wherein said amino acid is L-homoserine.

21. (New) The method according to claim 18, wherein said amino acid is L-threonine.--

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

Newly added Claims 11-21 are supported by the specification at pages 2-36 and by original Claims 1-10. No new matter is believed to have been added to this application by these amendments.

REMARKS

Claims 11-21 are pending. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants confirm the election of Group I, drawn to DNA encoding proteins and bacteria. Newly added Claims 1-17 recite the elected subject matter. Applicants have also added Claims 18-21. These claims are directed to a method of use of the invention of Group